REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the language specifying that the metal hydroxide is surface-treated **with Na_2O**. The language "**with Na_2O**" was inadvertently added to the claim by amendment in Applicants' July 23, 2008 Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action. Thus, this amendment adds no new subject matter.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

1. Written description

Claims 1-6 are rejected for alleged failure to comply with the written description requirement. The rejection is respectfully traversed, for reasons provided below. Claims 1-6 are further rejected for alleged lack of enablement. This rejection is also respectfully traversed, for reasons provided below.

According to the Examiner, the specification does not disclose how the applicant has placed Na_2O on the surface of the claimed metal hydroxide particles.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the language specifying that the metal hydroxide is surface-treated **with Na_2O**. The language "**with Na_2O**" was inadvertently added to the claim by amendment in Applicants' July 23, 2008 Amendment in Response to Non-Final Office Action. Claim 1 as amended specifies that the metal hydroxide is indeed surface treated, but not by Na_2O. This is an important distinction. Surface treatment of the metal hydroxide recited in claim 1 as amended is fully described and enabled by the specification. For instance, paragraph [0023] of the original specification as published states that "[t]he surface-treating methods for the metal hydroxide include methods of coating the metal hydroxide with a higher fatty acid, a silane coupling agent, a titanate coupling agent, a nitrate and soon, a sol-gel coating method, a silicone polymer

coating method, a resin coating method, and so on. The metal hydroxide used in the present invention is preferably surface-treated by one or more of these surface-treating methods. In addition, Example 1 (at paragraph [0082] of the original specification as published) discloses the use of aluminum hydroxide surface treated with stearic acid, silane coupling agent, and ammonium nitrate. Example 2 (at paragraph [0087] of the original specification as published) discloses the use of aluminum hydroxide surface-treated with a silane coupling agent. And, Example 5 (at paragraph [0093] of the original specification as published) discloses the use of magnesium hydroxide surface-treated with a higher fatty acid. Finally, Comparative Example 4 provides a teaching that aluminum hydroxide that is not surface treated results in an injection molded object that is less flame retardant, has a higher degradation ratio, and a lower Izod impact strength than injection molded objects that contain metal hydroxides that have been surface treated according to the claimed invention.

Thus, surface treated metal hydroxides are described and enabled in the original specification, and the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are satisfied. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes there are further issues that could be advance by an interview or entry of an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,

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